



Southern Gulf  
NRM

## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Cactus Control Collaboration

A collaboration of community-based not-for-profits is inviting landholders and local governments across more than half of Queensland to apply for grants for chemical to get rid of a host of cactus species thriving in an Australian environment free of natural enemies.

Without any natural controls, invasive cacti are finding Australia's rangelands prime for the taking, which is why Desert Channels Queensland has teamed up with Southern Gulf NRM based in Mount Isa and South West NRM out of Charleville, to help landholders nip this problem in the butt.

Mr Vol Norris, Desert Channels Queensland's Project Manager, said invasive cacti are one of the most intractable groups of weeds in Outback Queensland. "At the moment, areas of infestation are relatively small, but the effort to eradicate is high," he said.

"There are a number of different types from Coral, Snake and Rope cactus to Hudson, Tiger and Prickly pear, and the name that really conjures up nightmares, Jumping Cholla.

"They're a major threat to production and biodiversity values by displacing grass and other native vegetation, hindering stock movements and impaling birds, bats, reptiles and mammals."

Mr Norris said that the collaboration of Desert Channels Queensland, Southern Gulf NRM and South West NRM recognises the diminishing number of people in the landscape to manage pests such as cactus.

"Not only are there fewer hands to do the work, control costs can be extremely high compared to land value," he said.

"So we've been able to get funding under the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund to purchase chemical to treat cactus from the New South Wales border to the Gulf."

Cactus is a garden escapee or reject, with infestations generally originating from around old homesteads, semi-permanent campsites, rubbish dumps and town commons.

Mr Norris said that as a consequence, they're inviting both landholders and local governments to apply for chemical grants.

More information on grant applications, call Desert Channels (4658 0600), Southern Gulf NRM (0419 108 079) or South West NRM (0488 006 481), while general cactus information can be found on the Australian Invasive Cacti Network website at [aicn.org.au](http://aicn.org.au).

**ENDS**

**Media enquiries: Andrew Maclean [ceo@southerngulf.com.au](mailto:ceo@southerngulf.com.au) 4743 1888**